ON THE COVER:
Mourners hold candles in the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Oct. 27. Andy Lipkin reflects on the tragedy, see page 3. More about the attack and victims on pages 23 and 24.

INSIDE:
MJSJ students helped with a book burial and dedication at the Knox Street Cemetery.
see page 11

Temples hold joint Sukkot celebration at Ohev Tzedek.
see page 6

(photo by Aaron Jackendoff/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)
Commentary

Musings with Mary Lou

Traditions Connect Us to the Past

By Mary Lou Finesilver

Tradition: “The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.”

One of my favorite songs is from Fiddler on the Roof, “Tradition.” Traditions can be many things, like don’t walk under a ladder. Or is that superstition? Maybe a little of both. How about some samples of tradition? In some synagogues, it is tradition to wear a yarmulke, or skull cap, in the building. Also the tallit, or prayer shawl, is worn during religious services. Tradition, right? Then there are some Jewish temples that don’t believe in wearing either one. Confusing, right? That is what makes the world go round.

What you think of as tradition may have no meaning to anyone else. During Simchat Torah, the celebration of giving of the Torah, many years ago it became a tradition to have all the people in the congregation carry all the Torahs around the Temple sanctuary seven times. The kids were permitted to carry Israeli flags around with the men. The flag sticks had a very pointy end and someone down the line added apples as a safety feature and this continues as a tradition. As a prize, I suppose for being good, the kids were given candy bars.

The Goldstones started that tradition at our temple, 40 or 50 years ago. It has been taken over by the Mirkin family. My in-laws owned a grocery store, and more than 50 years ago they began giving candy bars.

The women now march around the sanctuary carrying the Torah. The first time I did it, I felt like I was floating on air. Understand, they are quite heavy and regrettfully, I am now unable to carry a regular Torah, but I can still walk around a couple of times.

Time changes all things, even the best of traditions. Passover Seder and dinner have become a tradition at our house for the last 30 years, at least. I have kept a notebook with the menus for Passover and Rosh Hashanah dinners. Don’t be surprised, but our menus has barely changed in all these years. Tradition! We like to think so. We start the dinner with eggs in salt water (salt symbolizes tears that were shed and the egg symbolizes life), gefilte fish, then soup with matzo balls. Passover Seder and dinner. Don’t be surprised, but our menus have barely changed all these years. Tradition! We like to think so. We start the dinner with eggs in salt water (salt symbolizes tears that were shed and the egg symbolizes life), gefilte fish, then soup with matzo balls.

Seven days later I received the call confirming my nightmare: I indeed was BRCA1 positive.

My initial shock and anger were replaced with a paralyzing fear that I already had developed cancer. Women carrying the BRCA mutation begin advanced screenings starting at age 25, and here I was at 37 never having had a mammogram or ovarian cancer screening. With the BRCA1 mutation, I faced an up to 88 percent lifetime risk of developing breast cancer and a 45 percent lifetime risk of ovarian cancer. My body, which I pushed to the limit as a track and cross country All-American in college, was a ticking time bomb.

Immediately I knew that feeling sorry for myself was not a productive option. When my breast and ovarian cancer screening (CA125 and a pelvic ultrasound) came back clear, I breathed a momentary sigh of relief, realizing how lucky I was to catch this. Then I moved quickly to a plan of action.

Five weeks after receiving the initial email from my at-home genetic testing company, I underwent my first surgery: a laparoscopic tube and ovary removal with my incredibly knowledgeable doctor at a major Los Angeles hospital. Eleven days later, my doctor laughed when I showed up to my post-op checkup anxiously awaiting to be cleared for exercise in my running shorts. Although I was hobbled and out of breath on that first run back, I was also smiling knowing I had significantly reduced my risk of ovarian cancer.

Next, I had to tackle the surgery that scared me the most. A double mastectomy is not only physically difficult but emotionally loaded. Instead of ignoring my fears, I began open conversations about my emotions, the pain and recovery, and how it could potentially change my relationship with running. I reached out to Sharsheret, the national Jewish not-for-profit organization that supports women and families facing or at high risk for breast and ovarian cancer. Sharsheret’s Peer Support Network is a confidential program that connects women one on one with others who share similar diagnoses, treatments, family constellations and experiences.

Beyond the peers, Sharsheret has a team of skilled and sensitive social workers and a genetic counselor who speak to thousands of women like me, helping us to cope, and stay strong and resilient while making very tough decisions about our bodies, our health and our future.

Without regret, I chose to preventatively remove both healthy ovaries and uterus. I have no plans to ever replace them. I have also taken the precaution of preventing a fetus from any future pregnancies.

I am very fortunate to have a wonderful support system of friends and family, and they have my back 100 percent. I am forever grateful for all of my blessings, and with the help of tradition, I feel like I am not alone any more. My in-laws owned a grocery store, and more than 50 years ago they began giving candy bars.
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November 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the December issue.

Submissions may be edited for length and/or clarity. The JJMM does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.

Liptalk 2: Personal Reflections of a Tragedy

By Andy Lipkin, Executive Vice-President

On Oct. 27, like most Saturday mornings, I ate my breakfast and sat down to watch “CBS This Morning.” At 10:41 a.m., Rob Elston, federation security coordinator, texted me the following message:

Good morning Andy, I don’t know if you have heard the news that there has been a shooting at a synagogue in Squirrel Hill during a prayer service. Let me know if you hear any other information?

That began two days of emails, texts, and phone calls to our Federation senior staff most notably, Bonnie Burdman, JCRC director, and Mike Rawl, JCC director, as well as Rick Marlin, Federation president, and Suzyn Schwebel-Epstein, JCRC president. I also received messages from community members, friends and family from throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as a cousin in the Netherlands, asking how my daughter Rachel was doing. For those who don’t know, Rachel lives with her fiancé Scott in Pittsburgh, and she works for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, as the director of women’s philanthropy.

Coincidentally, my wife Hilari and I were planning to visit Rachel and Scott this weekend, and we took off in the early afternoon. Hilari and Rachel were planning to attend a wedding fair on Sunday while the men watched football. Obviously, these plans changed. On our way to Pittsburgh, Hilari read my texts and typed back my responses. At the same time, Bonnie (who was out of town for a family wedding) worked on drafting a statement to the media as well as the Jewish and general community. Mike was interviewed by channel 27 on Saturday. He discussed the numerous security measures that Federation has implemented over the past several years, totaling roughly $350,000. Similarly, I was interviewed in Pittsburgh by channel 27 and further emphasized that Rob Elston also consults with the temples on a regular basis, conducting security training.

While in Pittsburgh, I spoke with Tirtza Kohan, who heads MSJS, to discuss communicat-
Rabbi’s Message
Rabbi Frank Muller
Congregation Rodef Sholom

The days leading up to this month’s mid-term elections have been among the most heated and controversial this nation has seen in its entire history. Polls reveal that voters are not just unhappy with their elected leaders. A vast majority of Americans harbor profound worries that the country’s fractured politics - amplified by social media and the 24-hour news cycle - have turned once sober policy debates into verbal wrestling matches at best, and hating more at worst. The result is a growing belief that only the most extreme voices drive the national discussion. Many of our elected officials, both in Washington and at the local level, fear that even a hint at compromise with their opponents will lead to their political demise.

Our disagreements on a societal level are very complex. There is not only deep disagreement about facts, but also how best to form beliefs about these facts, that is, about how to gather and assess evidence in proper ways. Understanding these deep disagreements will not inspire optimism about our ability to reach consensus. Whatever happens to the idea that respectfully accommodating the views of fellow citizens, whose intelligence and sincerity is not in doubt, requires some degree of moderation on our part? Whatever happened to civility in our public and political discourse? Where is the intellectual humility that allows for the possibility that there may be at least a shred of cogent reasoning in an opposing viewpoint? When a candidate for governor says that his opponent better be wearing a catcher’s mask because he will stomp on his face with golf spikes, I shudder with embarrassment at the quality of those running for high office. When a Supreme Court nominee wins Senate confirmation by a vote of 50-48, I fear for the future of a unified nation moving forward.

I spoke with a rabbinic colleague recently who hails from Toronto. He told me that unless the country takes a turn towards a different direction soon, he and his wife will return to his native Canada to live. While there may be serious issues in America today, I believe that our country is still one of the best places in the world to call home. Despite the problems we face, the freedom and opportunity which the United States offers is unparalleled anywhere on the planet.

While this month certainly will begin on a contentious note, it ends with the holiday that brings us all together to remember to give thanks for what’s right with America, and to pray that we can, as a nation, remedy the ills which keep us from realizing our highest hopes and fondest dreams, namely, that all of us are created equal and that every person will one day be able to sit under their vine and fig tree, with no one to make them afraid. Darlene joins me in wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.
El Emeth Events

Minyans are held daily at 5:45 p.m. including Saturday. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 2
Liberty Food Pantry at Church Hill United Methodist Church needs volunteers for its November distribution. Set up is Thursday evening, Nov. 1 from 7 to 8 pm and food distribution is Friday morning, Nov. 2 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Call the Temple office to volunteer.

Nov. 6
Board of Directors meeting. Executive Committee meets at 6:30 p.m with the Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 7
Jewish Christian Dialogue. Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the lecture beginning at 1 p.m. The theme this year is “Is There a G-d? Why should we believe and talk with G-d?” Dr. and Mrs. Kong Oh will present “How do Baha’is handle non-belief?” All are welcome to attend.

Nov. 17
Kiddush Luncheon. Services start at 9:30 a.m. with luncheon following at noon. We will celebrate November birthdays. Please call the office to RSVP.

Nov. 19
Shmoozing with Shmulik will get together at 10:30 a.m. for some fun in Viddish with Sam Kooperman. All are welcome to attend and refreshments are served.

Nov. 28
Minyan and a Meal with Jesse McClain. Minyan is at 5:45 p.m. with the dinner and program at 6 p.m. McClain will speak on his work in Holocaust Education through the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. Members are $10 and non-members and associates $15. Forms will be sent to members’ homes and can be returned to the Synagogue with payment.

Dec. 3
Kids Hanukkah Happening. Watch for more information

Committee Begins Plans for Fiesta Dinner Dance at El Emeth

“Well my friends, the time has come To raise the roof and have some fun.... We’re going to party Karamu, fiesta, forever Come on and sing along!”

It may not last “All Night Long,” but from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, Temple El Emeth’s annual FIESTA dinner dance is where you’ll want to be.

With musical entertainment, a lavish buffet - including the popular pasta station, appletinis, an open bar, and prizes galore, this will be a night you won’t want to end.

One lucky winner will take home the grand prize of $3,000. Three $500 prizes, three $250 prizes and ten gift certificates of $25 each will be given out during the evening, as well.

Tickets are $150 per couple and may be obtained by calling Temple El Emeth at 330.759.1429. The deadline for paid reservations is Nov. 26.

So come party, FIESTA, at Temple El Emeth. You will have a fabulous time.

Jewish Christian Dialogue

Jewish Christian Dialogue, with Rabbi Joseph Schonberger and Father George Balasko, will be Nov. 7 at Temple El Emeth. Refreshments will be served at 12:30 p.m. and the session will begin at 1 p.m. The topic is “How do Baha’is handle non-belief?” presented by Dr. and Mrs. Kong Oh. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at Temple El Emeth and has grown to include the Hindu, Bahai and Sikh traditions. The public is invited.

El Emeth Sukkah Decorating

A Simchat Torah celebration was held Oct. 1 at Temple El Emeth. Chatan Torah Philippe and Monique Westreich and Chatan Bereisheit Laura and Phillip Silverman were honored. Eighty people enjoyed the celebration complete with klezmer music by Steven Greenman and Walt Mahovlich and a dessert reception provided by Sisterhood. Children received little treats as they marched around the sanctuary during the Torah parade.

Photo: Eighty people enjoyed a Simchat Torah Celebration at Temple El Emeth. Pictured from left to right are Chatan Torah Philippe and Monique Westreich and Chatan Bereisheit Laura and Phillip Silverman.

Over 45 children, parents and grandparents helped with Sukkah decorating in late September at Temple El Emeth. They enjoyed making decorations and a pizza lunch. A joint Sukkot celebration with Rodef Sholom and Ohev Tzedek was held at Ohev Tzedek. See article on page 6
Sukkot Celebration Held

By Neil Yutkin
Ohev Tzedek Co-president

Editor’s note: See photos from Sukkah decorating at Temple El Emeth and Rodef Sholom on pages 4 and 5.

Erev Sukkot was celebrated at Ohev Tzedek Synagogue September 23 with participation by three temples. This was the last of the first cycle of having joint celebrations by El Emeth, Ohev Tzedek, and Rodef Sholom.

In our initial meetings, it was decided that Hanukkah would be celebrated at Rodef Sholom, Purim would be observed at El Emeth, and Sukkot at Ohev Tzedek. All three events were a success.

There were over 80 participants at the event on the Sept. 23. The option was given for people to either sit in the Sukkah or eat in our Social Hall out of the weather. Over 70 people chose to enjoy the relatively mild (for Sukkot) weather. Over 70 people chose to enjoy the Sukkah or eat in our Social Hall out of the weather. Over 70 people chose to enjoy the Sukkah or eat in our Social Hall out of the weather.

The decorations were put in place by Gon Erez and Maton Nurani, two of the Israelis living and working in our Jewish community. The evening began with a Minhah service and the blessing upon entering the Sukkah. A festive harvest meal was prepared by Art Einzig with volunteer help provided by Nancy Burnett, Sheri Della Penna, and Yelena Kogan-Bonhomme. The menu included mushroom-barley soup, garlic bread, salad, fruit salad, stuffed red peppers, stuffed zucchini, portabella mushrooms in a balsamic vinegar glaze, and smashed red-skin potatoes with turnips, parsnips, and roasted garlic. Dessert was fresh baked Dutch crumb apple pie with ice cream or pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

During the meal, Rabbi Dario Hunter gave a short description of the many facets of Sukkot and its different meanings. Those who attended seemed to appreciate the evening, and no small part of it was the fact that the weather was ideal for eating in the Sukkah.

Ohev Tzedek unveiled its new 24x24 spacious Sukkah, which featured decorations by both the children of the synagogue and others in the community. Built by Temple members and associates, it featured lighting designed by our master Sukkah builder Murray Davis. The decorations were put in place by Gon Erez and Maton Nurani, two of the Israelis living and working in our Jewish community.

Potluck Dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat Service to Be Held

Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah will hold a Potluck Dinner/Kabbalat Shabbat Service/Kristallnacht Lecture at 6 p.m., Nov. 9 at Elton Beard Cabin in Boardman Park. The Kristallnacht lecture with a question and answer session will be led by Jacob Labendz, director of the Center for Judaica and Holocaust Studies at Youngstown State University. There is no fee, but people are asked to bring a dairy or vegetarian dish. RSVP to the Ohev Tzedek office at 330.758.2321 by Nov. 2.

Temple El Emeth
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Hors d’oeuvres ~ Open Bar ~ Dessert

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
November 2018
Mental Health First Aid Courses Offered

Jewish Family Services Director Ken Bielecki is teaming up with Lana Hennings of the Trumbull County Mental Health & Recovery Board to offer Mental Health First Aid courses.

The eight-hour Mental Health First Aid courses are meant to teach the public how to recognize symptoms of mental health problems, how to offer and provide initial help, and how to guide a person toward appropriate treatments and other supportive help. The interactive course includes a power point presentation, movie clips, and group activities.

"The goal is to empower the participant taking the course to build confidence in their ability to recognize and help someone with a mental health issue," Bielecki said. "We review signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and psychosis in detail."

Bielecki and Hennings have taught over 18 classes in three years. Both are certified to teach the adult and youth tracks. Over 500 individuals of various backgrounds, including probation officers, librarians, church leaders, medical students, domestic violence workers, and members of the general community, have participated.

Current statistics suggest that one in five American adults have a mental health issue in any given year. Mental health issues are common and sometimes confused for other problems, such as medical issues, or symptoms simply go unnoticed.

"These courses help to destigmatize mental health and show participants that recovery is possible for those individuals with a mental health issue," Bielecki said. "We want to instill hope and inform the public that treatment options and resources are available to those with mental health symptoms. By offering the MHFA courses I'm able to educate the general public on a topic I feel very passionate about."

The Mental Health First Aid courses are free and offered on a quarterly basis at Trumbull Mental Health & Recovery Board. For more information, contact Bielecki at 330.746.7929.

How Meditation Helps With Senior Health

By Shay Erez
Jewish Family Services Senior Outreach Coordinator

More and more doctors are finding meditation to be the best tool for mental, physical, and emotional senior health.

Meditation helps memory. It helps an individual have better long- and short-term memory recall, including retrieving long-lost memories. It allows an aging brain to retain the ability to store new memories.

Meditation makes the digestive system work better. The deep breathing exercises central to any meditation program improve circulation and blood oxygen enrichment, which means senior citizens with digestive problems will see immediate relief.

Meditation stimulates the “feel good” part of the brain. Seniors who suffer from depression will have increased feelings of happiness.

Meditation sharpens and focuses the mind. It results in better focus, more creativity, and quicker wit, among other benefits.

Meditation melts away stress. Chronic illness, disability, or the loss of a spouse can cause long-term stress for senior citizens. Stress and end-of-life anxiety are greatly reduced after beginning a meditation program.

For more information, or for a meditation partner, call Shay Erez, Jewish Family Services senior outreach coordinator, at 330.550.5995.

Source: Eco Institute

“Our Gang” Halloween Party

Jewish Family Services’ annual “Our Gang” Halloween party was held at the end of October at the JCC. Participants had a good time carving pumpkins, watching movies, eating, and playing games.

How Mental Health First Aid Courses Help With Senior Health

By Shay Erez
Jewish Family Services Senior Outreach Coordinator

Mental Health First Aid Courses Offered

JFS Director Ken Bielecki is teaming up with a colleague to offer Mental Health First Aid courses. Pictured is a recent class.

“Our Gang” Halloween Party

Jewish Family Services' annual “Our Gang” Halloween party was held at the end of October at the JCC. Participants had a good time carving pumpkins, watching movies, eating, and playing games.
In January, Alla Verkhlin will retire after 28 years at Heritage Manor. “I love this place,” she said. “It’s a mixed emotion, a mixed feeling.”

Hired to do billing in 1990, Verkhlin is now Heritage Manor’s office coordinator. She oversees office operations and does major billing. She has become an expert in all phases of insurance billing. She advocates and pursues reimbursement on behalf of the residents.

“Alla is very knowledgeable about long term-care billing,” said Cristal Vincent, CEO. “She has been through several changes of payment models in long-term care and has continually adapted well. She is a dedicated professional and is committed to making sure the business office runs efficiently and effectively on a daily basis.”

Verkhlin came to the United States in 1979 as part of the Russian resettlement program. “So I was familiar with the Federation, and I was familiar with Jewish family services,” before coming to work for Heritage Manor, she said.

Though Verkhlin doesn’t work with Heritage Manor residents as often as some employees, she’s happy to be helping them have a good quality of life. Some residents stay at Heritage Manor for years, while others stay months, she noted.

“So we make sure it’s pleasant for them,” she said.

Leaving Heritage Manor after so many years will be a “big change,” Verkhlin said. She said the people at Heritage Manor have become family to her.

“I’m going to miss everybody,” she said. “I’m going to miss the residents. I’m going to miss the people I work with.”

Verkhlin plans to make Youngstown her home base, but will spend her winters in southern Texas. “I’m going to hopefully become a little bit of a snowbird, see how that works out,” she said. “Then I’m just looking forward to doing things that I don’t have to do. I can just do what I want to do, hopefully.”

She added, “I don’t know. I have never been retired. I’m looking forward to it. I’ll just take it as it comes.”

Verkhlin has two sons and two grandsons. Spending time with them is on her retirement agenda. She’s also considering volunteering.

Levy Gardens Assisted Living Facility tenants enjoyed a variety of outings in October. Included were a trip to Mountaineer Casino Racetrack & Resort. Nobody was a big winner, but they enjoyed lunch. Later in the month, they visited Corky & Lenny’s Restaurant Deli in Beachwood. Finally, they visited Kent State University’s May 4 Visitors Center.
Heritage Manor Hosts Car Show

Heritage Manor hosted its first ever car show in October. Sponsored by Mahoning Valley Hospital Foundation, it was enjoyed by Heritage Manor residents and Levy Gardens tenants.

There were seven cars in the show. Three were awarded prizes. First place went to Marc Rubin for his Mercury, second went to Jerry and Natalie Dechant for their Model T, and third place went to Shane Baldwin for his Ford Mustang.

Included were malts and an Elvis impersonator.

Above: Heritage Manor hosted a car show in October.

Left: An Elvis impersonator entertained Heritage Manor residents and Levy Gardens tenants at a car show.

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Thank you for your support!
Sharpsville Teacher Participates in Conference on Education for Excellence, Diversity, and Respect

Federation and Thomases Family Endowment Support Reading/Book Sharing Program Used in His Classroom

At the end of August, the Janusz Korczak Association of the USA held a conference entitled Education for Excellence, Diversity, and Respect: Transformative 21st Century Innovations on the campus of Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, Wash. The comprehensive four-day gathering and workshop celebrated the life, pedagogy, and legacy of Janusz Korczak, an eminent doctor, writer, educator, philosopher, and children’s rights advocate who gave his life for his children during the Holocaust.

Educators, school counselors, school principals, and advocates for children’s rights all took part in the intensive program to share innovative ideas and present research-based and service-oriented projects from different countries. In addition to celebrating Korczak’s groundbreaking humanistic ideas, the ambitious program included a Polish cultural reception with traditional food, music, and dancing, an innovative puppet show, and candlelight games and activities in the tradition of Korczak’s summer camps.

With programming ranging from theory, history, and practice, the organizers brought together scholars and educators from 22 countries, including Poland, Russia, Brazil, Portugal, France, New Zealand, the UK, Australia, Tunisia, Peru, the Netherlands and Sharpsville, PA. Sharpsville middle-school teacher Ira Pataki was invited by the Korczak Association to present the work of his school as a model of Korczak’s Children’s Court in their own Youth Court initiative - modeled after Korczak’s Court of Peers established in his orphanage in Warsaw before World War II. Through many years of support by the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the Thomases Family Endowment, Sharpsville Middle School has participated for nearly a decade in the International Shared Reading/Book Sharing Program.

Over the years, Pataki’s classes have explored the progressive practices of Korczak, most notably implementing many of Korczak’s reforms in their celebration of virtue through awarding of postcards (another practice in the routine management of Korczak’s orphanage) and the use of a Children’s Court based on concepts of Restorative Justice and following in the earlier path paved by Korczak so long ago.

Pataki’s presentation - Youth Courts and Postcards: Incorporating Korczak and Principles of Restorative Justice in a Children’s Court - detailed Sharpsville’s adaptations to this great legacy. Pataki was also asked to participate in a day-long workshop to instruct teachers on how to incorporate Korczak’s methodology and practices. On the final day of the conference, the organizers recognized Pataki for his efforts on behalf of children by presenting him with the Janusz Korczak menorah - entitled the “The Last Journey” - a scale model of a sculpture on display at Irving Roth’s Holocaust Resource Center of Temple Judea in Manhasset, New York. In the company of such an international field and in view of this compelling legacy, the honor to Sharpsville’s students, staff, and community was extraordinary.

Liptalk: Without Federation…

A Message from Andy Lipkin
Federation Executive Vice-President

Our 2018 Inaugural Event was fantastic! It started with a VIP meet and greet with actor Joshua Malina. Josh graciously posed for photo after photo as he chatted with everyone.

Later, Josh, as keynote speaker, gave a presentation entitled, “How to Make it in Hollywood and Remain A Mensch.” He regaled us with stories of his mother insisting he call Aaron Sorkin who grew up near him – she “just adopted that classic Jewish mother reasoning, ‘He’s Jewish, you’re Jewish. Give him a call!’” and explaining how he saved Sorkin once when he was choking – “He lived. We laughed. And, in a perhaps unrelated note, I’ve gone on to appear in almost everything he’s written.”

But he also discussed the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and all it offers to our Jewish community and the greater community. He was “blown away” by the services we offer and the facilities we have here on our Gypsy Lane campus.

And, as he said, with donations going to such things as the Commission for Jewish Education, the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services, Holocaust education, Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens and trips to Israel, donors can feel good about where their money is going.

Without Federation, these things wouldn’t be possible. Without Federation, 13,750 individuals wouldn’t have received Holocaust education in 2017 through the Jewish Community Relations Council, and 18 evangelical and mainline Christian pastors would not have participated in a JCRC-sponsored mission to Israel.

Without Federation, our community wouldn’t have a five-star rated nursing home, Heritage Manor; where 1,582 activities were offered to residents in 2017. Without Federation, we would not have Levy Gardens, our assisted living residence, where tenants enjoyed 71 cultural outings last year.

Without Federation, Jewish Family Services wouldn’t have been able to provide nutritious meals to 6,713 people last year, or be able to provide guardianship services to roughly 33 people in our community.

Without Federation, the Jewish Community Center would not be able to offer a whole host of programs and facilities, such as a state-of-the-art fitness center, a day camp, infant/toddler day care, pre-school, a school of dance, a school of music, an outdoor playground, the only infant and toddler playground in the Valley, cultural arts and adult programming, an indoor pool on Gypsy Lane, an outdoor pool at our Logan Campus, and so much more too numerous to mention, all in a Jewish environment.

But we can’t do these things without your support. Please consider an increased donation to the 2018 Combined Jewish Appeal Campaign. And, keep in mind that the Youngstown Foundation will increase your donation of $100 or more.

Liptalk continued on page 21
Melissa Bateman and Aaron Hively Learned About Federation as Fellows

By Elise Skolnick

Editor’s Note: The Federation Fellows are a group of 28 Jewish leaders ranging in age from 25 to 50 who want to see the Jewish community thrive. The Fellows program is for the entire family, for the first time engaging non-Jewish spouses.

When Melissa Bateman and Aaron Hively became Federation Fellows they didn’t know much about the Federation and its agencies beyond the Jewish Community Center.

Now, they say, they have a deeper understanding about what the Federation and its agencies do.

“It seems like it’s usually a mystery for people sitting on the outside,” Bateman said. “That was probably the biggest takeaway from it. And the camaraderie. Just being with other young Jewish people in a community where there’s not a ton of Jewish people. It created another family, I want to say. People with a common interest, a common goal - you got to interwork with them on almost a monthly basis. You got to see them and learn something new, or experience something new, or just have fun together.”

Hively agreed.

“It’s been a learning experience,” he said. “I didn’t know much about the agencies. I learned more about them through that process.”

It’s good for young people to be involved with the Federation so their voices are heard, Bateman said.

“It’s a calling, too, at least for me,” she said. “The involvement, to help repair the world. And that’s something I want my children to see.”

The process also “gave Federation a picture of who our leadership is going to be,” in the future, Hively said.

Hively graduated from YSU with a degree in criminal justice and earned a law degree from the University of Akron School of Law. He’s currently a magistrate for the Seventh District Court of Appeals.

Bateman is a staff attorney for the Seventh District Court of Appeals. He serves on the JCRC board and is chair of its Community Engagement and Interfaith/Intergroup Affairs sub-committee. He is president of the board of Congregation Rodef Sholom.

Bateman and Hively married in 2007. The couple has three children: Tres, 9; Blythe, 8; and Ezra, 5. They attend Akiva Academy.

Knox Street Cemetery Book Burial and Dedication

By Elise Skolnick

The Knox Street Cemetery, neglected until recently, was rededicated with a book burial in October. Holy books that were no longer in use were buried in a corner of the cemetery.

Maimonides School of Jewish Studies students in grades 3 through 10 helped with the process.

“Just as we bury our dead, so too do we bury our sacred books and ritual items which contain God’s name, which we use to worship God,” said Rabbi Joseph Schonberger. “When our sacred items and texts become unusable, we bury them with loving care and respect. These old books and ritual items have served us faithfully. It is time for them to rest in peace.”

The cemetery (officially called Youngstown Benevolent Association Cemetery) was established in 1897 by the Youngstown Benevolent Association Cemetery of the Order of Benjamin David Lodge 58, and provided space for those who didn’t have families or resources.

The oldest stone is dated 1908. It is possible there are older graves not marked with stones. The last human burial in the cemetery was in the 1970s. It was neglected until recently when Stephen Stoyak initiated restoration efforts. Dead trees and downed branches were removed. The land was regraded, seeded and fertilized; and some of the tombstones that had toppled were reset.

The cemetery is now managed by the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

Maimonides School of Jewish Studies students in grades 3 through 10 participated in a book burial and dedication at the Knox Street Cemetery.

 opera western reserve presents puccini’s madama butterfly

For tickets call 330-259-0555 • Operawesternreserve.org

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PERFORMING ARTS

Liz Rubino Studios
For more information on the studio offerings, contact Liz Rubino at 330.509.0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com.

Liz Rubino offers private sessions in voice, acting, drama therapy, junior voice, and junior acting. Voice lessons are conducted primarily online.

Voice Lessons:
Regular Lessons | 55 mins
Cost: $49/Member | $65/Non Member
Junior Lessons | 30 mins
Cost: $30/Member | $45/Non Member

To register call the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

JCC School of Dance
For more information on the studio offerings, contact Eri Raib-Ptichkin at 330.333.2219 or jccschoolofdance@jewishyoungstown.org

Parent & Me Program
AGES 4 MONTHS - 4 YEARS
Bitty Babies (4 months to pre-walking)
This class introduces gross motor skills to babies with the interaction of a caregiver.
Session II: Nov. 5 - Dec. 3 | Mondays 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Music & Movement (18-36 months)
A class that focuses on parent led activities that build coordination, listening skills, and social awareness.
Session II: Nov. 6 - Dec. 4 | Tuesdays 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Dance Discovery (Ages 3-4)
Parents participate while children use their minds and bodies to move to a variety of song styles.
Session II: Nov. 7 - Dec. 5 | Weds 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Creative Movement Program
AGES 4-6
Creative Movement I (Ages 4-5)
This class explores beginning ballet and tap dance principles.
Sept. 24 - Dec. 10 | Mondays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Creative Movement II (Ages 5-6)
This class continues to explore beginning ballet and tap principles to build balance, coordination, and confidence.
Sept. 24 - Dec. 10 | Mondays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Mini Program
AGES 6-7
Mini Tap (Ages 6-7)
This class expands upon tap skills learned in the Creative Movement Program.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Mini Ballet (Ages 6-7)
This class expands upon ballet skills learned in the Creative Movement Program.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Mini Tumbling (Ages 6-7)
Learn the beginning principles of jazz dance and tumbling in a safe and controlled environment.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Dance Curriculum Program
AGES 7-18
DC I: Tap (Ages 7-10)
Students learn the percussive dance style known as tap.
Session I: Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

DC I: Ballet (Ages 7-10)
A class that emphasizes the basic principles of ballet and challenges students to remember patterns and choreography.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

DC I: Jazz (Ages 7-10)
This class teaches the art of classic jazz dancing.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 5:30-6:15 p.m.

DC II: Acro (Ages 7-13)
This class introduces students to basic tumbling and acrobatic stretches and exercises.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

DC II: Beginner Baton (Ages 7-13)
This class introduces the art of baton twirling to beginner level students.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

DC II: Intermediate Baton (Ages 7-13)
This class expands upon basic baton skills. Students will also learn more complex patterns and choreography.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 7 | Fridays 6:15-7:00 p.m.

DC II: Tap (Ages 10-13)
A class for the experienced dance student to build upon basic principles and steps.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 7 | Fridays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

DC II: Ballet (Ages 10-13)
A class that builds upon principles of ballet movements and body positions.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 7 | Fridays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

DC II: Jazz (Ages 10-13)
A class for dance student to continue learning the principles of classic jazz dancing.
Sept. 14 - Dec. 10 | Fridays 5:30-6:15 p.m.

DC III: Technique (Ages 13-18)
A class designed for students with dance experience looking to maintain and improve their movement quality for high school level dance or majorette teams.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.

DC III: Baton (Ages 13-18)
A class designed for high school students with twirling experience looking to maintain and improve their skills for majorette teams and/or tryouts.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.

DC III: Tap (Ages 13-18)
A class designed for high school students with extensive tap experience looking to improve their technique in speed and sound quality.
Sept. 12 - Dec. 12 | Wednesdays 8:00-8:45 p.m.

DC III: Musical Theater Tap (Ages 13-18)
A class created for high school theater students to hone their craft by improving their tap dance technique, rhythm, and style.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.

DC III: Musical Theater Jazz (Ages 13-18)
A class created for high school students looking to gain an edge at theater auditions by improving their overall dance technique.
Sept. 13 - Dec. 6 | Thursdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.

Adult Dance Program
AGES 18+
Adult Tap I
A class designed for adults to stay fit and active while learning how to create rhythms with their feet.
Class is taught at a beginner to intermediate level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 2:45-3:30 p.m.

Adult Ballet I
This class is designed for adults to improve strength, posture, and balance. Class is taught at a beginner level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 2:00-2:45 p.m.
Adult Tap II
We’ll explore the percussive dance style known as tap. Class is taught at an intermediate level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Adult Ballet II
This class introduces the basic principles of ballet and is taught at an advanced beginner to intermediate level.
Sept. 25 - Dec. 11 | Tuesdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.

For more information and pricing visit jccyoungstown.org

JCC School of Music
This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC!

To register call the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250

Instructor Led Fitness
Students will build motor skills and learn teamwork through a variety of physical activities guided by a certified group fitness instructor.

New Infant & Toddler Playground
We are excited to announce the completion of our new Infant & Toddler Playground. This unique playspace is the only one of its kind in our region and is designed to meet the developmental needs of children ages six months to five years.

Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!
Personal Training Benefits:
• personalized safe and effective fitness programs
• achievement of goals in a short time period
• improved muscle coordination, strength, endurance, and flexibility

To register call: 330.746.3250 ext. 182

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Six Weeks through Prekindergarten

Experiential Learning
Our teachers encourage children to be exploratory, expressive and communicative—we help them to learn by doing.

Kindergarten Readiness
Our preschool and prekindergarten programs ensure that students will be prepared academically and socially to move into elementary school.

Cooperation & Critical Thinking
Collaborative discussion enables students to construct and negotiate their own meaning and understanding of content and concepts.

Enrichment Programming
Students will have the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of enrichment offerings including dance, music, visual art, and Jewish culture.

Weekly Swim Lessons
Preschool students will engage in ongoing small group lessons at the JCC’s indoor pool to learn water safety and build swimming skills.

Taekwondo
Master Tom Ritchie is a Kukkiwon Certified 5th Degree Black Belt. He has been teaching Olympic style Taekwondo for over a decade. Taekwondo can help you increase focus, burn off excess energy, improve coordination, and build confidence. We are offering two classes.

Li’l Dragons (Ages: 5-8)
Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Location: Akiva Classroom
Cost: $75/Member per month | $97/Non Member per month

All TKD (Ages: 9 and up)
Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Location: Akiva Classroom
Cost: $97/Member per month | $129/Non Member per month

Uniform Cost: $45 | Sign up for 6 months and receive a free uniform!
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Mamanet
The Mamanet league is the largest social-sports project in Israel specifically targeting mothers. Join other women and mothers in an engaging, modified version of volleyball. Mamanet promotes exercise and fitness, education, sports, professional networking, and is a great chance to build community with other women. Our JCC is working to begin the area’s first Mamanet league and is looking for interested participants.

Introductory Session
Date: Monday, November 19
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium
Women of all ages welcome Free and open to everyone

continued on next page
JCC Youth Tennis Clinics
These group lessons will go over the basics of tennis with your child. Forehand, backhand, parts of the court, and more will be covered. All equipment will be provided. Payment must be made before the clinics begin.

Session II: Saturdays | Nov 17 - Dec 22
Group 1: Ages 5 - 8, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Group 2: Ages 9 - 13, 3:00- 4:00 p.m.
Group 3: Ages 14 - 17, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Wellness Lunch and Learns:
Following the Flag
Rick Lilley, Guard Commander of the Girard Veterans Council will explain the thirteen folds of the American flag and the meaning behind each fold.

Date: Friday, November 16
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register at jccyoungstown.org by Wednesday, November 14

A Matter of Balance : Managing Concerns About Falls
Join us for a six-week workshop with the Area Agency on Aging. A Matter of Balance is a structured group intervention that utilizes a variety of activities to address physical, social and cognitive factors affecting fear of falling. Participants will also learn fall prevention strategies.

Date: Tuesdays and Thursdays | Nov 27 - Dec 20
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
Register at jccyoungstown.org by Wednesday, November 21

WERQ®
A wildly addictive cardio dance class based on the hottest pop and hip hop music. This workout is non-stop with repetitive athletic moves and dance steps.

Date: Thursdays
Time: 5:30 – 6:25 p.m.

Vinyasa Yoga
A simple Asana routine including sun salutations, forward bends, balancing poses, hip openers, twists and more.

Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

AQUATICS

For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chrystal at 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

Private Swim Lessons
Swimmers of any age or level can benefit from private swim lessons. Learn to swim or improve your skills with one of our certified swim instructors. Private lessons are also great for triathletes.

Four 30-minute lessons
Cost: $82/Member | $110/Non Member

Fall Swim Team
We are part of the Splash Swim League. Daily attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged. Practices are held Monday - Thursday

Time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Session 1: November 26 – January 4
Cost: $75/Member | $150/Non Member
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Water Women
This free class is designed for women with little or no swimming ability. Participants will learn the skills needed to feel safe in the water. Lessons will be limited to 12 women per session. This program is funded by Chemical Bank.

Date: Saturdays
Time: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
Session 3 : December 1 – January 5
Register at jccyoungstown.org/waterwomen

Learn-To- Swim: Ages 3+
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the swim instructors

Level 1: Basic swimming skills will be taught such as floating, blowing bubbles and the correct body positions for freestyle and backstroke.

Level 2: Children will learn arm motions for freestyle and backstroke as well as the correct breathing patterns for both strokes.

Level 3: Children will focus on breaststroke, butterfly, and diving while refining freestyle and backstroke techniques.

Level 4: Children will continue to refine the four swim strokes and diving.

Date: Wednesdays
Time: 4:30-5:00 p.m.
Date: Saturdays
Time: 8:55-9:25 a.m., 10:05-10:35 a.m
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member
YOUTH & FAMILY

For more information on youth and family programs, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.

PJ Library
PJ Library is a local Jewish family engagement program. All families raising Jewish children from age six months through eight years are welcome to enroll. PJ Library programming and events are free and open to everyone.

Hanukkah Party
Come celebrate the Festival of Lights at the JCC. We will learn about Hanukkah, spin the dreidel, light the menorah and eat some latkes, too!
Date: Thursday, November 29
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Movie and Lunch Bunch: The Theory of Everything
In the 1960s, Cambridge University student and future physicist Stephen Hawking (Eddie Redmayne) falls in love with Jane Wilde (Felicity Jones). At 21, Hawking learns that he has motor neuron disease. Despite this, and with Jane at his side, he begins an ambitious study of time as his health deteriorates. He and Jane defy terrible odds and break new ground in the fields of medicine and science. A light lunch will be served.
Date: Tuesday, November 6
Time: 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: Free
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Women & Multiculturalism in Israel
Hear the inspiring story of how a group of 10 Jewish and Arab women from Western Galilee built amazing friendships while working to create a brighter future. We’ll also learn about the history of multiculturalism in the Mahoning Valley. A light dinner will be served.
Date: Monday, November 5
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: Free
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195

FEDERATION

Volunteer Opportunities
Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council
330.746.3250 ext. 123
Swilschek@jewishyoungstown.org

Churchill United Methodist Food Pantry
The CHUM Food Pantry aims to feed families in Liberty Township that are in need of extra assistance. Since first starting in 2016, the pantry now feeds over 70+ families. Volunteers will help distribute food and make guests feel welcome during their visit.
Dates: Nov. 2 & Dec. 7
Time: 9:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

Diaper Packing with Making Kids Count
The Making Kids Count Diaper Bank Volunteers repack diapers in quantities of 25 diapers per size with saran wrap and labels. This ensures that more people are able to receive a pack of diapers and that the diapers are being distributed as more of an “emergency” supply. Volunteers wrap 10,000 diapers into 400 packs a month!
Date: Nov. 9
Times: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: 7178 West Blvd, Ste E, Youngstown, Ohio 44512

CULTURAL ARTS

For more information on cultural arts programs, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.

Newman Levy Speaker Series
J. Newman Levy was a beloved member of our community and a fan of sports and Jewish culture. The Newman Levy series will introduce us to Jewish related sports and culture programs.

Sivan Ya’ari - Innovation Africa
Hear the heart-warming story of Sivan Ya’ari, who made a tremendous change to the lives of those living in remote villages in Africa. With her entrepreneurial spirit and uncompromising will, Sivan will share how she was able to save thousands of lives by bringing Israeli technology to villages with no electricity or running water. This event is free and open to the public.
Date: Monday, November 12
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

SENIOR OUTREACH

If you or someone you know is over 60 years old and could use a friendly visit, a helping hand, or just information about our Jewish community, please contact Senior Outreach Coordinator Shai Erez at 330.550.5995 or serez@jewishyoungstown.org.

RENTALS

For more information or to book a rental contact Kelli McCormick at 330.746.3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org

Multi-Purpose Room
Equipped with an overhead motorized projection theater screen, state-of-the-art audio/visual system, movable module stage, and commercial kitchen. Catering packages are available for up to 250 guests.

Adult Lounge
Accommodates 50 guests. An in-house kosher caterer is available.

Meeting Rooms
Our small conference room seats up to 10 guests, while our boardroom seats 35 and is equipped with a built-in projector and screen.

Gymnasium
Our full size gymnasium is equipped with six regulation height basketball hoops, bleacher seating and a dividing curtain.
Cost: $50/hr

Pool Party
Enjoy time in our full size indoor heated pool and one hour in the party room.
Cost: $165/Members | $220/Non Member
$50/hr. for additional time
15 people per lifeguard and $25/ additional lifeguard

continued on next page
Under the Sea Splish Splash Mermaid Bash
Experience swimming and storytelling with the JCC Mermaid in our pool and enjoy time in our party room.
Cost: $225/Members | $281/Non Member
Pricing includes: One hour in the pool and one hour in the party room.

Game Time-Birthday Bash
Play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, or wiffleball in our gymnasium then enjoy time in our party room.
Cost: $150/Member | $188/Non Member
Pricing includes: One hour in our gymnasium and one hour in our private party room.
$50/hr for additional time in the gymnasium.

Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
Create new memories and easily entertain your guests when you host your next birthday party, meeting, retreat, or educational seminar. This multi-purpose room is located on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 36 people. The open room feel offers multiple room configurations. In-house catering is available.
Cost: $50/hour Member | $63/hour Non Member

Current Exhibit: Accumulate
October 25 – December 13
About the Exhibition:
Accumulate is an exhibition of recent works by Aislinn Janek exploring how memories are created, stored, and altered over time, as well as how these mental happenings manifest themselves in our daily lives. I am actively engaging in methods that represent the ideas of daily habits, repetition, and the accumulation of those habits.

Former JCC Youngstown Executive Director Retiring From JCC Association of North America

JCC Association of North America Senior Vice President Alan Goldberg announced he will retire effective Dec. 31. Prior to his 17-year tenure at JCC Association, Goldberg spent 13 years as executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown.
Following his time in Youngstown, Goldberg was associate executive director of the Mandel JCC of Cleveland. He served in several roles at JCC Association, including consultant to more than 25 JCCs as the founding director of the Mandel Center for Leadership and Management and its flagship benchmarking project, and as vice president of the professional development department.
Goldberg will serve as a special advisor to the president of JCC Association through April 30, 2019.

Reunite With Old Friends at BBYO Reunion

A Youngstown BBYO Alumni Reunion will be Wednesday, Nov. 21. Reconnect and reunite with former BBYO members, advisors, and city directors from the Youngstown area over the Thanksgiving holiday. All generations are encouraged to attend. It will be at Kravitz Delicatessen from 8 to 11 p.m. Light snacks will be served and each person will receive two drink tickets. RSVP online at jccyoungstown.org/bbyoreunion by Friday, Nov. 16. Parents – please pass this along to your children!

Early Learning Books Donated to JCC’s Little Free Library

Altrusa International of Youngstown, Ohio, Inc. donated early learning books to the JCC’s Little Free Library. Pictured are Samie Winick; Mike Rawl, JCC executive director; Diane Leone of Altrusa; Janet Haladay, president of Altrusa; Sarah Wilschek, JCC community development manager; and Carole McWilson of Altrusa.

Parade Kicks Off Nonviolence Week

Staff and community members participated in the 8th Annual Nonviolence Parade in downtown Youngstown in early October.
Partnership2Gether Plans Variety of Events

By Nancy Burnett
Partnership2Gether chair, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Partnership2Gether Community Engagement co-chair, U.S.

Partnership2Gether Central Area Consortium is comprised of 14 U.S. communities, the Western Galilee area of Israel, and Budapest, Hungary. Its goals are maintaining close relationships among the partners, building bridges of communication, and fostering Jewish identity worldwide.

Projects and plans currently under development include:

- **Independence Day Delegation** - two delegations will be visiting the Partnership communities: A Western Galilee singer and two Western Galilee artists.
- **Violinist Delegation** - Fort Worth, Texas, violinists will participate in a residency program in Akko, Israel.
- **Visionaries** - an entrepreneur distiller from the Western Galilee will travel to U.S. communities, and a Western Galilee community theater director will present diversity workshops in U.S. communities.
- **Learn2Gether** - chevruta-style learning groups are being organized to connect Israeli, Hungarian, and U.S. Jews while studying together monthly via virtual connection.
- **Global Day of Jewish Learning** - virtual lectures may be accessed through the Partnership2Gether website (jewishagency.org/p2g-eng) on Sunday, Nov. 11.
- **Women Leading a Dialogue** group will visit Youngstown with their message of multiculturalism in the Western Galilee on Nov. 5 and 6.

Hear the inspiring story of how a group of 10 Jewish and Arab women from Western Galilee built amazing friendships while working to create a brighter future.

**Date:** Monday, November 5th  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room

This event is free and open to the public. A light dinner will be served. Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195 by Friday November 2nd

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NEWMAN LEVY SPEAKER SERIES

**SIVAN YA’ARI: INNOVATION AFRICA**

**Date:** Monday, November 12  
**Time:** 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Multi-Purpose Room

Register at jccyoungstown.org or by calling the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195 by Friday, November 9

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BORIS’ KOSHER MEATS

We are ready to “Meat” your holiday needs

**Open Every Sunday 8:00 AM-1:00 PM**
**14406 Cedar Road near Green**
**216-382-5330 Fax 216-382-3520**

**Available for weddings, graduation parties, and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs**

Full service catering for brunches and dinners. Kosher and non-kosher

Authorized caterer for the DD Davis Center, the Jewish Community Center, Stambaugh Auditorium, Tyler Historical Center; Temples El Emeth, Ohevet Tzedek, and Rodef Sholom.

3135 Belmont Avenue, Liberty Township • 330-759-7889  
Poland Library • 330-757-2330

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Happy Holiday!
Condolences

Marlene Aron

Marlene Aron, 75, formerly of Youngstown, passed away in San Francisco following a vehicular accident. Marlene earned a bachelor of arts in painting from Youngstown State University and a master of fine arts in painting/drawing from the California College of the Arts in Oakland, Calif. Her artwork was displayed in many shows, including shows at the Butler Institute of American Art and the John J. McDonough Museum of Art at YSU. Her work is also in private and public collections. She earned numerous awards for her artwork. Her work is part of a show, “Reflections,” at the Reclaimed Room Gallery in San Francisco through Nov. 16. She was putting final touches on the show when she passed away.

Ilona Marcia Klein

Funeral services were at Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah in Boardman on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018, with calling hours at the temple, followed by burial for Ilona Marcia Klein, 71, the devoted mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, aunt and friend. Ilona Klein passed away at home on Oct. 3, 2018, and had been diagnosed with endometrial cancer in the spring of this year.

Ilona was born in 1947, to Fred and Lillian Klein of Youngstown, and that is where she spent her childhood.

She attended Boardman schools and Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah. Ilona graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in teaching.

She spent her early married years in Zwiebrucken, Germany with her then husband, Tim Neustadt, who was an army officer. Their daughter, Nikki, was born in Landstuhl, Germany.

In Cleveland, where Ilona developed so many enduring relationships, she earned her master’s degree in social work at Case Western Reserve University. She founded and opened The Early Childhood Enrichment Center and had professional roles at the Jewish Community Center’s Family Place and Cleveland Public Radio. She was also involved in both Cleveland and Ann Arbor as a volunteer assisting refugee resettlement through Jewish Family Services. Many of the families she helped to settle became lifelong friends.

A move to Santa Fe, N.M. opened a new world of friendships and opportunities to explore birds and the natural world she so dearly loved. Mountains, woodland trails, and wildflowers were important to her and she valued the opportunity to share her interest in the outdoors with friends and grandchildren. She loved birding and took the time to point out various species. No flower or bird was too ordinary to escape her notice and admiration.

Ilona moved to Ann Arbor in recent years to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren.

Her role in the lives of Elijah, Jonah and Rebekah cannot be overstated; she took great interest in their school, religious and extracurricular activities and their devotion to her was evident in her final months. She took Jewish holidays and rituals to heart and always shared her practices and recipes with family and friends. Her love of birds and nature is integral to her family.

Despite the distance and passage of time, Ilona had an enduring presence in the lives of many, many friends and relatives throughout the country, in Cleveland, Ann Arbor, Washington, D.C., Youngstown, Santa Fe, St. Louis, Los Angeles, New York and beyond. May the memories from her incredible life be a blessing to all those who knew and loved her.

Defined by her enduring relationships with the many people she loved and who loved her, Ilona is survived by her daughter, Nikki (Kelli); adoring grandchildren, Elijah, Jonah and Rebekah of Ann Arbor; her sister, Susan Mostov (Ronald, deceased) of Youngstown; and nieces Julie (Steve) and Shana (John). She will be missed by the many family members and close friends whose lives she touched in profound ways.

The family is extremely thankful for the wonderful care and support from Arbor Hospice, nurse Karen, and caregivers Christine, Kathy, B and their team.

Donations in Ilona’s honor and memory can be made to your local public radio station, your local Jewish Family Services Resettlement and Immigration Services program, Mill Creek Park Songbird Boxes (https://millacreekmetroparksfoundation.org/song-bird-boxes), or to the City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Program, Attn.: Tina Stephens, 3875 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor MI 48104.

Shiva was in Cleveland on Monday, Oct. 8, at the home of John and Robyne Habat. An observance of Shiva also took place in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Arrangements were by the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home in Youngstown.

Lorraine “Libby” Goldman

She was loved fiercely and above all else, she loved her family and had a special way of touching everyone she came into contact with. Libby treasured her family, her dogs, cooking, theater, reading, and nature.

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Joe and Rose Siegel; cherished husband, Leonard Goldman; and dear sister, Marian Peskin.

Survivors include her dearest daughters, Marcie Clayman (Wayne) and Saralee Greenfield (Brenda McIntyre); sister Barbara “Bobbie” Goldberg; sister-in-law Sally Bassoff; cherished grandchildren, Jeffrey Clayman (Laura), Jillian Feltham (Jack) and Matthew Greenfield; great-grandchildren Natalie and Felicity Feltham; as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were Monday, Sept. 17 at Sarasota National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to LifePath Hospice in Tampa or a charity of one’s choice.

“Libby” Goldman, 89, passed away Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 in Tampa, Fla.

Libby was born in Youngstown on March 14, 1929, and attended The Rayen School and The Ohio State University before becoming one of the first women in real estate in Youngstown. In 2001, she decided to make Florida her home.

Libby was known for her magnificent singing voice, sparkling eyes, friendly smile and unforgettable sense of humor.
Jill D. Williams

Jill D. Williams (nee Silverstein), who was born March 20, 1966, passed away Sept. 20, 2018.

Jill was the beloved wife of Gary and loving mother of Courtney (Andrew) Kohner and Jessica Wall. She was the devoted sister of Michelle (Evan) Brown and Gary Silverstein, the cherished daughter of Bernice Silverstein, and the grandmother of Caden Wall, Ava and Paige Rouwenhorst, and Kyra Kohner. She was the devoted sister of Michelle (Evan) Brown and Gary Silverstein, the cherished daughter of Bernice Silverstein, and the grandmother of Caden Wall, Ava and Paige Rouwenhorst, and Kyra Kohner. Services were at the Berkowitz-Kumin-Bookatz Memorial Chapel in Cleveland Heights. Interment was at Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Contributions are suggested to the American Diabetes Foundation. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at berkowitzkuminbookatzfunerals.com for the Williams family.

Doris Stein

Doris Stein, 85, formerly of Youngstown, passed away Sept. 10 in Chicago. Doris was preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Jack Stein. She is survived by her daughter, Caron Stein, and her son-in-law, Leonard Clagett. Donations in Doris' memory to the Alzheimer's Association are appreciated. Arrangements were by the Lakeview Funeral Home in Chicago.

Milton Swartz

Funeral services were held at Ohev Tzedek Temple for Milton Swartz, 95, formerly of Tippecanoe Road in Canfield, who died in September in his apartment at The Ring House, Rockville, Md.

Milton was born March 1, 1923, in Albany, N.Y., the son of the late Jacob and Celia Swartz. Milton was the former owner of Canyon Stone Home Improvement Co. in Youngstown, and a former member of Ohev Tzedek. He was a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, having served with the 44th Bombardment Group in World War II. Milton piloted a B-24 Liberator aircraft, flying missions out of England during the winter of 1944 to 1945.

He was married for 53 years to Florence, who preceded him in death in 2003.

He is survived by two sons, Richard (Laura Swiss) of Pittsburgh and Joseph of New York City; four grandchildren, Riza and Reuben Swartz of Pittsburgh, Meredith Swartz Dante (Frank) of Philadelphia, and Rachel Swartz Ginzburg (Charlie) of Chicago.

Besides his parents, he was also predeceased in death by a sister, Shirley Lehrer.

Arrangements were handled by the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home in Youngstown.
Hillel International Announces New Initiative to Meet Growing Need for Mental Health Support on Campus

WASHINGTON – Continuing its efforts to adapt to the changing needs of the students it serves, Hillel International, the world’s largest Jewish student organization, announced the launch of HillelWell as part of the Hillel U professional development program during the 2018-2019 school year.

With initial support through a $1 million gift from Stephen J. Cloobeck, founder of Diamond Resorts International, Inc., HillelWell will provide resources and training to campus professionals to better prepare them to serve the student body (regardless of religious affiliation) on their campuses with increasing rates of depression, anxiety and other mental health and wellness concerns.

“Our goal is to create an integrated Jewish approach to mental health, focused on giving young people the knowledge and skills to balance their spiritual, physical, intellectual, relational and emotional wellbeing,” said Rabbi Sherre Hirsch, senior rabbinic scholar for Hillel International, who is overseeing HillelWell. “This approach seeks not only to normalize mental health and wellness and remove its current stigmas, but also to promote it as a way to enrich the Jewish people and the world.”

This issue is not new to Hillel. In recent years, Hillel professionals on campus have identified stress and anxiety as well as mental health and wellness among their greatest concerns for Jewish and non-Jewish college students, and one of the highest priorities for skill development and programmatic resources. Research shows that one in three college freshmen will report a mental health disorder, and 1 in 12 college students will make a suicide plan. Researchers also believe even these statistics underrepresent the issue. Barriers to effective prevention and treatment include lack of campus resources, stigma and fear - causing many young adults to suffer in isolation.

HillelWell will address the mental health and wellness crisis on campus in tangible ways, including:

- The launch of a HillelWell lab with five to seven campus participants that will each pilot an innovative, scalable wellness initiative.
- Providing in-person and online training for at least 400 Hillel professionals during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Collaboration with Hillel International’s student cabinet to ensure HillelWell is integrated into all programming and addressing the needs of students.
- Development of resource guides for campus professionals to create their own wellness strategies, including through deep campus partnerships that support the whole student.
- “I am honored to support Hillel International as it seeks to address mental health and wellness for a generation that is more in need than ever of this type of support,” said Stephen J. Cloobeck, founder of Diamond Resorts International, Inc. “Through my own struggles with dyslexia, I know firsthand how isolating and difficult it can be as a young person dealing with something others might not understand. I know that HillelWell will make an incredible difference to the students and the wider Jewish community.”
- HillelWell will incorporate longstanding practices including “unplugging” for Shabbat, the intentionality of Jewish tradition, mindfulness of prayer and meditation, all while providing highly relevant and modern training for professionals and equipping the next generation of Jewish leaders with the resources they need to live in a complicated and demanding world.

“Students have told us what they need from Hillel and we are listening,” said Rabbi Hirsch. “With the support of Stephen J. Cloobeck, HillelWell will allow us to respond to the changing needs of our students and professionals and promote proactive steps toward wellness on campus.”

Founded in 1923, Hillel has been enriching the lives of Jewish students for more than 90 years. Today, Hillel International is a global organization that welcomes students of all backgrounds and fosters an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. Hillel is dedicated to enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. As the largest Jewish student organization in the world, Hillel builds connections with emerging adults at more than 550 colleges and universities, and inspires them to direct their own path. During their formative college years, students are challenged to explore, experience, and create vibrant Jewish lives.

Scholarships Offered for YSU Jewish Students or Students of Judaic Studies

The Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at Youngstown State University announced that six scholarships are available for Jewish students or students of Judaic studies.

The J. Newman Levy Scholarship offers support to Jewish students and to students involved in Jewish studies. It gives preference to first-year Jewish students who reside outside the tri-county area (excluded counties: Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana). The Senator Maurice and Florence Lipscher Scholarship offers need- and merit-based aid to Jewish students, with a preference for residents of the tri-county area, as well as Mercer County in Pennsylvania. The Isadore Zobel Scholarship and the Louis and Julia Spitzer Memorial Scholarship offer need-based assistance to students of the Jewish faith. The Sam and Sylvia Zoldan Memorial Scholarship offers aid to Jewish students who have taken at least one class in Judaic and Holocaust studies, with a preference for business majors. The Dr. Saul Friedman Scholarship offers aid to undergraduate students involved in the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, with a preference for students majoring in Judaic studies.

For more information about these scholarships, contact Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz, director of the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, at jlabendz@ysu.edu or 330.941.1603 or the YSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 330.841.3505.

Hebrew Graduate Teaching Assistantship for Student Pursuing MA in English

Youngstown State University is seeking applications from candidates interested in pursuing a master of arts in English while teaching introductory, and possibly intermediate, courses in Hebrew language.

The selected candidate will receive the Graduate College Premiere Scholarship, which covers instructional fees and the out-of-state surcharge. The candidate will teach one Hebrew language course per semester, pending enrollment, for which they will receive the standard teaching assistant stipend. If there is no enrollment in Hebrew courses, the candidate may receive an alternate teaching or research assignment.

Interested candidates should apply to the department of English through the YSU College of Graduate Studies and indicate in their personal statement a wish to be considered for the Hebrew teaching assistantship. A portion of that statement should explain the candidate’s qualifications to teach Hebrew language courses at the college level and to successfully complete a master of arts in English. In addition, one of the applicant’s reference letters should address their qualifications to teach Hebrew.

Candidates must have maintained a 3.00 minimum average, on a four-point scale or equivalent, in their undergraduate studies.

For more information, contact Dr. Jacob Labendz, director of the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at YSU, at 330.941.1603 or jlabendz@ysu.edu.
Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies
Youngstown State University
Events and Information

Nov. 4
Annual trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC for students of Youngstown State University. (Two busses are sold out.)

Nov. 5
"Women of Israel Leading a Dialogue," in DeBartolo 132 at 2 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Center for Women and Gender Studies, and the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies.

Nov. 15
"Jewish-Muslim Forum: Death and Mourning" featuring Dr. Mustansir Mir and Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz. In the Gallery Room of the Kilcawley Center at YSU from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies for information about free parking.

Jewish students and students interested in pursuing Jewish studies at YSU should contact the Office of Financial Aid. There are a number of scholarships for which they may qualify.

Contact Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz, director of YSU’s Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, at 330.941.1603 or jlabendz@ysu.edu with any questions or to be placed on an electronic mailing list.

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more to the Federation by 10 percent if you make it through them. You can make your donation through the Youngstown Foundation (younstownfoundation.org).

Ken Bielecki, JFS director, prepares meals for delivery to community members.

Thank you in advance to all who support what we do. Every day, with your help, we improve the lives of people in our community, in Israel, and throughout the world. Visit our website to see a video that premiered at the Inaugural Event that tells more about what our community would be like without Federation (jewishyoungstown.org).

Finally, I’d also like to thank the hosts of this year’s Inaugural Event – Gerry and Jeannie Peskin. I know they prefer to work behind the scenes, but they were wonderful hosts of the event. And thank you to Dr. Mark Perlman, the chairman of this year’s campaign. With his leadership, I know the campaign will be a success.

Andy
Andrew Lipkin
Executive Vice-President,
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation

Interfaith Fall Festival Celebrates Diversity and Unity

By Elise Skolnick

In an effort to reach women who can't attend their annual daytime tea, Interfaith Women of the Valley held their first fall festival on an October evening.

The organization held their first interfaith tea 71 years ago. It was an opportunity for women of all faiths to come together as sisters to share information about their faith and their lives. Since that time, it's been held annually at a place of worship of a different faith than the year before. This year, the group added a fall evening event.

The free event held at the Lariccia Family Community Center in Boardman Park was meant to celebrate diversity and unity. It included food, a speaker and an opportunity to get to know other participants.

The featured speaker was Rev. Nosheen Khan of Punjab, Pakistan. She is the first Presbyterian woman to be ordained in Pakistan and is the first female principal of Gujranwala Theological Seminary.

"It's really, really wonderful to come together as women beyond religion, beyond our culture," she said. "I wish I could have this kind of gathering in my own country."

She was ordained in 2015. "My church should ordain women because women are working outside the church, why not inside the church? If a woman could be an ambassador in other countries why shouldn't she be an ambassador of the word of God?" she said.

Three more women have been ordained since she was.

Though progress is being made, women often face discrimination and violence in Pakistan.

"Pakistan is one of the most dangerous countries for women," she said.

The next interfaith tea will be at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 5, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Campbell.

Interfaith Women of the Valley is a gathering of women from nearly every religion in the Mahoning Valley. They promote unity and celebrate diversity through programs of social awareness, mutual respect and a desire to learn about one another and each other's faiths.

Rev. Nosheen Khan of Punjab, Pakistan was the featured speaker at the Women of the Valley’s Interfaith Fall Festival. She is the first Presbyterian woman to be ordained in Pakistan.
News You Can Use

BCRA from page 2

breasts. On July 26, I underwent a nipple-sparing bilateral mastectomy with immediate direct-to-implant reconstruction. Although the initial recovery was filled with some dark moments, each week I gained strength and was surrounded by an army of support, which undoubtedly helped me heal both physically and mentally. Now, 12 weeks past my surgery date, I am back to my eight-mile runs and chasing around three small kids. As I set out running, I am so grateful to be strong, healthy and pain-free. Each step is a reminder of how lucky I am to have caught my BRCA mutation before it was too late.

When I look at my body today, it is not a terrible reminder of my genetic mutation, but rather a beautiful result of finding a team of supportive surgeons who believe you do not have to sacrifice aesthetics to prevent cancer.

The final piece to my puzzle was finding the origins of my BRCA1 mutation. As it turns out, my father carries the BRCA gene. Although male carriers are at increased risk for prostate cancer, the mutation often goes undetected in men, as it did in my father, who had prostate cancer. A common misconception is that women cannot inherit BRCA from their fathers. Because no women in my family had breast or ovarian cancer, the possibility that I carried BRCA flew under the radar.

All Ashkenazi Jewish women and men carry a one-in-40 risk of carrying a BRCA mutation as compared to one-in-500 chance in the general population. October may be Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but all year round, Jewish women and men everywhere need to ask more questions about their family genetic history on both their paternal and maternal sides. It is time for us to begin conversations with our doctors even when they may not initiate them with us. We need to be educated, and to raise awareness about how BRCA and other genetic mutations such as CHEK2 and PALB2 can be passed down from both parents. Stopping cancer before it stops us is now often in our hands. While prophylactic surgery might not be the right choice for every woman, knowing our risk and understanding our options will empower us to take control of our bodies and our lives, and will enable us to make informed and potentially life-saving decisions.

In the U.S., the average woman has a 12 percent chance of developing breast cancer and a 1 to 2 percent chance of developing ovarian cancer. But certain genetic mutations such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 can increase those lifetime risks to up to 88 percent and 45 percent respectively, according to studies published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. These mutations are found in Ashkenazi Jews 10 times more frequently than in the general population. At least 50 percent of hereditary breast cancer is related to genes we don’t know how to look for yet.

At-home genetic testing companies may offer tests for three such mutations most commonly found in those of Ashkenazi descent, making it much easier for them to get tested. It’s important to note that anyone who takes an at-home genetic test should first and foremost get tested by a medical provider and also consult a genetic counselor to discuss their results and help them navigate next steps.

Now that my cancer journey is behind me, I want to pay it forward and help. That’s why I am sharing my story so publicly – so that other men and women understand how learning their own cancer genetic profile can save their lives, and to give a “face” to those who inherit the BRCA mutation from their fathers.

Discounts and Special Programs Offered at Butler on Museum Store Sunday

The Butler Institute of American Art will participate in Museum Store Sunday on Nov. 25.

Author Sean Posey (“Lost Youngstown” and “Historic Theaters of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley”) and author Mark Peyko (“Remembering Youngstown”) will speak and sign books. Local vendors will sell their crafts. A discount of 10 percent for non-members and 20 percent for members will be offered. Customers will receive a free gift with $40 purchases. There will be light refreshments and the museum cafe will be open.

Volunteers are needed to help in the store and at the information desk. Email Renee Sheakoski at reneeohio@gmail.com for more information. For an application, go to butlerart.com.

Over 700 museum stores representing all fifty states, ten countries, and three continents will participate in Museum Store Sunday. Purchases at the Butler store benefit the mission and programs of the museum, including its collections, conservation and public programming.

Reflections from page 2

I am sure we all will never forget where we were on Saturday, when the shooting occurred, similar to recalling where we were on Sept. 11. I hope that I am wrong, but I fear that one day something like this could happen in the Mahoning and Shenago valleys. It is not a question of “if” but “when.” Let us all pray that this never happens again! Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me personally to check up on Rachel in Pittsburgh. I can’t express how much this support meant to my family.

May the memory of the 11 people who lost their lives be for a blessing. Thank you to the police and first responders for putting their lives on the line to apprehend the shooter.

Holiday Gift Wrapping

Help us make this year’s gift wrapping fundraiser a success!

Volunteers are needed at the Southern Park Mall
Monday, December 17 - Monday, December 24

Volunteers can register by visiting jccyoungstown.org/giftwrap
or by contacting Sarah Wilschek at (530) 746-5230 x 123: swilschek@jewishyoungstown.org

Volunteers are needed to help guard outside area synagogues if requested, to allow members of the Jewish community to pray without fear.
Federation Statement on Mass Shooting at Pittsburgh Synagogue
Andrew Lipkin, Executive Vice-President
Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Director of Community Relations/ Government Affairs

On Oct. 27, a gunman entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and started shooting. Multiple people were killed and injured, including several law enforcement officers. The shooter is in custody.

On that holy day of Shabbat - a day for rest and peace - our hearts were broken. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims in Pittsburgh and with the entire Jewish community there as they cope with this unthinkable horror. We have been in touch with our partners at the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh and we are offering any support possible.

While we have no reason to believe there is any particular local threat, we are monitoring the unfolding situation carefully and our security team at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is working closely with law enforcement to add patrols.

‘Our Hearts Are Broken’: The Jewish World Reacts to the Pittsburgh Synagogue Attack
By Marcy Oster

(JTA) -- The shooting in a Pittsburgh synagogue that has left 11 people dead has been described as “horrific,” “heinous” and “devastating” by Jewish leaders, politicians and Israeli leaders.

“Our hearts are broken,” the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh posted on Facebook, saying it was making an exception and using social media on Shabbat.

The federation’s president, Jeff Finkelstein, in an interview on CNN praised the quick reaction of the police and local government and said of the shooting, “This is now real. This is my worst nightmare.”

Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, said in a statement: “Our thoughts, prayers and actions are with the entire Pittsburgh Jewish community at the events of [Oct. 27]. The peace of Shabbat was shattered and lives tragically lost. All of us stand with our brothers and sisters there.”

Silverman said the Secure Community Network is already working with the synagogue alongside the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI. The security arm for national Jewish groups is affiliated with JFNA and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The Jewish refugee aid agency HIAS, which was named by the suspected shooter in a series of posts on social media, said in a statement, “There are no words to express how devastated we are by the events in Pittsburgh this morning. This loss is our loss, and our thoughts are with Tree of Life Congregation, our local partner Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) of Pittsburgh, the city of Pittsburgh and all those affected by this senseless act of violence. As we try to process this horrifying tragedy, we pray that the American Jewish community and the country can find healing.”

David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, tweeted: “The news from #Pittsburgh is horrible, just horrible. An attack on a synagogue kills at least 8 people and wounds others. No words are adequate. A demented, bigoted mind that would destroy lives in a house of worship should leave us all speechless, united and angry as hell.”

ADL National Director Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement that “it is simply unconscionable for Jews to be targeted during worship on a Sabbath morning, and unthinkable that it would happen in the United States of America in this day and age. Unfortunately, this violent attack - the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in the United States since 2014 - occurs at a time when ADL has reported a historic increase in both anti-Semitic incidents and anti-Semitic online harassment.”

Greenblatt said in a tweet that the ADL was “actively engaged with law enforcement to understand the extent of this anti-Semitic attack.”

The Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh in a post on Facebook said it is in contact with staff, university officials and law enforcement to ensure the safety of students. The center said it was planning to open on Shabbat in order to support students and community members “when it is safe to do so.”

Parents responded with comments thanking the center for being available to help their children. One wrote: “So glad that you are there to support our children when we, as parents, are far away and cannot hug them and be with them.”

World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder said the attack was not just on the Jewish community but on America as a whole.

“We must condemn this attack at the highest levels and do everything in our power to stop such atrocities from happening again,” Lauder said in a statement.

B’nai Brith International called it “a devastating day for Jews in this country and around the world.”

“But more than that, it’s another devastating day for tolerance and acceptance,” Charles Kaufman and Daniel Mariaschin, its president and CEO, respectively, said in a statement. “We are living in an unparalleled toxic atmosphere of hate that seems endless. While we welcome politicians’ thoughts and prayers when murderous rages of hate occur, that must be followed by action on many levels. Tolerance and mutual respect, plus sensible gun control – especially for automatic weapons – are needed now.”

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., who was the target of a mail bombing campaign recently, said in a tweet: “Our houses of worship will never truly be safe until those in power challenge anti-Semitism and the rampant proliferation of guns. My heart goes out to Pittsburgh, its Jewish community, law enforcers and all those impacted by this tragedy on a holy day of worship.”

J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group, called the shooting a “savage hate crime and an act of terror.”

“This moment calls for responsible leadership. We must all join together in condemning the rising tide of white nationalism, racism and hatred directed at Jewish people and other vulnerable minorities in our country,” it said in a statement. “And we must call for an end to the extreme rhetoric, laced with bigotry and racism, that is dominating our national discourse and breeding violence.”

The Republican Jewish Coalition’s national chairman, Norm Coleman, said in a statement: “The level of hate in this country is out of control. Today we mourn the dead and stand in awe of the men and women who ran toward the gun fire to help the victims and stop the perpetrator.

In the days ahead, we all must come together to combat this epidemic of hate. From the left, the right, and all other corners of our political spectrum, we must come together to find a better path forward.”

In Israel, emergency and resilience teams left for Pittsburgh to provide psychological assistance and community rehabilitation, according to the statement.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a videotaped statement said that he was “heartbroken and appalled by the murderous attack” on the Tree of Life synagogue.

“The entire people of Israel grieve with the families of the dead. We stand together with the Jewish community of Pittsburgh,” he said. “We stand together with the American people in the face of this horrendous anti-Semitic brutality. And we all pray for the speedy recovery of the wounded.”

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, who also serves as the country’s Diaspora minister, left for Pittsburgh shortly after news of the shooting. He will visit the synagogue, meet with the local Jewish community and participate in the funerals of those killed in the attack, a statement from his office said.

“When Jews are murdered in Pittsburgh, the people of Israel feel pain,” Bennett said. “All Israel are responsible for one another.”

He also said that “Jewish blood is not free. I am going to offer strength to the community and its leaders, and to examine how we can offer assistance.”
The Victims of the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting

By Ben Sales

(JTA) -- The 11 victims of the Oct. 27 attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue included two brothers with intellectual disabilities, a married couple and a physician who assisted patients in the early days of the AIDS crisis.

The chief medical examiner of Pittsburgh’s Allegheny County released the names Sunday, one day after a gunman opened fire at Tree of Life Congregation, which houses three separate prayer services. In addition to the 11 victims, two congregants and four police officers were injured.

The youngest victim was 54 and the oldest was 97.

Federal officials said in a news conference Sunday that they were treating the shooting as a hate crime. The suspect, Robert Bowers, shouted anti-Semitic statements during the rampage.

Shortly before entering the synagogue, Bowers posted a message on his website condemning the Jewish refugee aid group HIAS and said Jews were the devil.

At a news conference the day after the shooting, federal officials as well as the mayor of Pittsburgh, Bill Peduto, expressed sympathy for the victims’ families and solidarity with the Jewish community of Squirrel Hill, the historically Jewish neighborhood where the shooting took place.

“The Jewish community is the backbone,” Peduto said of the Squirrel Hill neighborhood. “It is part of the fabric of Pittsburgh and we will be there in all communities to help our friends in the Jewish community. We’ve been knocked down before, but we’ve always been able to stand up because we work together.

We know that we as a society are better than this. We know that hate will never win out.”

Jeff Finkelstein, president and CEO of Pittsburgh’s Jewish federation, at the news conference called it “an awful, awful period for our Jewish community, and especially for the families that have been affected, and it’s real once you hear the names.

“We’ll be there for them and be there to help our Jewish community and the Pittsburgh region heal from this,” he said.

Following is some information on the victims of the shooting, as announced by Karl Williams, the chief medical examiner of Allegheny County.

David Rosenthal, 54, and Cecil Rosenthal, 59

The two brothers were very involved in the local Jewish community.

“Neither man had one ounce of hate in their hearts,” read a tweet by a synagogue member. “I grieve for these men. They will be missed.”

The brothers lived in a community home run by ACHIEVA, which provides residential and employment services for adults with intellectual disabilities. They were roommates and often were the first faces that congregants saw as they arrived for services.

“They loved life. They loved their community,” said Chris Schopf, vice president of Residential Supports at ACHIEVA. “They spent a lot of time at the Tree of Life, never missing a Saturday. If they were here, they would tell you that is where they were supposed to be.”

Bernice Simon, 84, and Sylvan Simon, 86

The Simons were married at the Tree of Life Congregation in 1956 in a candlelight ceremony, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported.

“They held hands and they always smiled and he would open the door for her, all those things that you want from another person,” neighbor Heather Graham told the newspaper. “They were really generous and nice to everybody. It’s just horrific.”

Sylvan was a retired accountant. Bernice was a former nurse.

Daniel Stein, 71

Stein once served as president of the New Light Congregation, one of the three congregations that were housed in the synagogue building, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported. He recently became a grandfather for the first time, according to local reports.

“He was always willing to help anybody,” said his nephew, Steven Halle. “He was somebody that everybody liked, very dry sense of humor and recently had a grandson who loved him.”

His wife, Sharyn, is the vice chair of membership of the local chapter of Hadassah.

Jerry Rabinowitz, 66

Rabinowitz was a physician and was involved in the Reconstructionist congregation, Dor Hadash, that met in the building, at one time serving as its president.

“Jerry was one of the backbones of the congregation,” Laura Horowitz, a congregant, who wept when she read his name, told JTA. “He blows - he blew - the shofar on Yom Kippur.”

A former patient recalled that in the early days of the AIDS crisis, Rabinowitz was among a handful of doctors treating patients with dignity and respect.

“Basically before there was effective treatment for fighting HIV itself, he was known in the community for keeping us alive the longest,” Michael Kerr recalled on Facebook. “He often held our hands (without rubber gloves) and always always hugged us as we left his office.”

Richard Gottfried, 65

A popular local dentist, Gottfried was active in New Light Congregation. The Tribune-Review reported that Richard and his wife, Margaret Durachko, volunteered with the Catholic Charities Free Dental Clinic.

Gottfried’s nephew honored his uncle in a tweet.

“Today I lost an important person in my life,” Jacob Gottfried wrote. “My uncle was murdered doing what he loved, praying to G-D. I don’t want to live in a world where I must fear to live as a Jew. I thank everyone in BBYO for being so supportive and I hope this never happens again! #PittsburghStrong.”

Joyce Fienberg, 75

Fienberg was a native of Toronto, Canada, and lived in several American cities before settling in Pittsburgh, where her husband, Stephen, was professor emeritus at Carnegie Mellon University before his death in December 2016, Toronto City News reported. She retired in 2008 as a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh’s Learning Research and Development Center, which looks at learning in the classroom and in museums. Her daughter-in-law, Marney Fienberg, is co-president of Hadassah North Virginia.

Rose Mallinger, 97

Though many news reports circulated that Rose Mallinger was a Holocaust survivor, a family friend tweeted that she was not. Mallinger’s great-niece told her friend that her aunt was “the most caring gentle loving woman.” The retired school secretary had children and three grandchildren. Her daughter, Andrea Wedner, 61, was among those wounded in the attack and is expected to recover, the Post-Gazette reported.

“She was a synagogue-goer, and not everybody is,” a former Tree of Life rabbi, Chuck Diamond, told The Washington Post about Mallinger. “She’s gone to the synagogue for a lifetime, no matter how many people are there. I feel a part of me died in that building.”

Melvin Wax, 88

Wax, a retired accountant and a grandfather, was described by fellow congregants as a “pillar” of the congregation, The Associated Press reported. He was a leader of Or Chadash, or New Light Congregation, which moved into the Tree of Life building a year ago after his congregation, made up mostly older members, could no longer afford its own synagogue building. He reportedly was leading his congregation’s services at the time of the attack.

Myron Snider, chairman of the congregation’s cemetery committee, described his friend as generous and kind. Snider said he and Wax shared mostly clean jokes at the end of each service.

Dennis Fishman, whose parents were friends with Wax, described him as empathetic and attentive.

“He was a quiet man, not very assertive but always there, often smiling,” Fishman said. “He had a real light-up-the-room kind of smile, with an eye that let you know he was paying attention to what made you happy and made you sad.”

Irving Younger, 69

Younger was a father and grandfather who had recently undergone surgery, his neighbor told the Post-Gazette.

“He was a really nice guy,” Jonathan Voye told the newspaper.

The Tribune-Review reported that Younger once owned a small business and was a youth baseball coach.

Among the injured, Daniel Leger, 70, a retired nurse and local hospital chaplain, suffered critical injuries in his chest, his brother, Paul, told the Tribune-Review. Leger had two surgeries on Saturday and remains in critical condition, according to reports. Leger, who has a wife and two sons, was scheduled to lead a service Saturday morning at Tree of Life.

Jerry Rabinowitz, 66

Rabinowitz was a physician and was involved in the Reconstructionist congregation, Dor Hadash, that met in the building, at one time serving as its president.

“Jerry was one of the backbones of the congregation,” Laura Horowitz, a congregant, who wept when she read his name, told JTA. “He blows - he blew - the shofar on Yom Kippur.”

A former patient recalled that in the early days of the AIDS crisis, Rabinowitz was among a handful of doctors treating patients with dignity and respect.

“Basically before there was effective treatment for fighting HIV itself, he was known in the community for keeping us alive the longest,” Michael Kerr recalled on Facebook. “He often held our hands (without rubber gloves) and always always hugged us as we left his office.”

Richard Gottfried, 65

A popular local dentist, Gottfried was active in New Light Congregation. The Tribune-Review reported that Richard and his wife, Margaret Durachko, volunteered with the Catholic Charities Free Dental Clinic.

Gottfried’s nephew honored his uncle in a tweet.

“Today I lost an important person in my life,” Jacob Gottfried wrote. “My uncle was murdered doing what he loved, praying to G-D. I don’t want to live in a world where I must fear to live as a Jew. I thank everyone in BBYO for being so supportive and I hope this never happens again! #PittsburghStrong.”

Joyce Fienberg, 75

Fienberg was a native of Toronto, Canada, and lived in several American cities before settling in Pittsburgh, where her husband, Stephen, was professor emeritus at Carnegie Mellon University before his death in December 2016, Toronto City News reported. She retired in 2008 as a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh’s Learning Research and Development Center, which looks at learning in the classroom and in museums. Her daughter-in-law, Marney Fienberg, is co-president of Hadassah North Virginia.

Rose Mallinger, 97

Though many news reports circulated that Rose Mallinger was a Holocaust survivor, a family friend tweeted that she was not. Mallinger’s great-niece told her friend that her aunt was “the most caring gentle loving woman.” The retired school secretary had children and three grandchildren. Her daughter, Andrea Wedner, 61, was among those wounded in the attack and is expected to recover, the Post-Gazette reported.

“She was a synagogue-goer, and not everybody is,” a former Tree of Life rabbi, Chuck Diamond, told The Washington Post about Mallinger. “She’s gone to the synagogue for a lifetime, no matter how many people are there. I feel a part of me died in that building.”

Melvin Wax, 88

Wax, a retired accountant and a grandfather, was described by fellow congregants as a “pillar” of the congregation, The Associated Press reported. He was a leader of Or Chadash, or New Light Congregation, which moved into the Tree of Life building a year ago after his congregation, made up mostly older members, could no longer afford its own synagogue building. He reportedly was leading his congregation’s services at the time of the attack.

Myron Snider, chairman of the congregation’s cemetery committee, described his friend as generous and kind. Snider said he and Wax shared mostly clean jokes at the end of each service.

Dennis Fishman, whose parents were friends with Wax, described him as empathetic and attentive.

“He was a quiet man, not very assertive but always there, often smiling,” Fishman said. “He had a real light-up-the-room kind of smile, with an eye that let you know he was paying attention to what made you happy and made you sad.”

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